

# The Ames Intelligencer

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Join Us  
**Bauge Family Log House**  
Dedication and Open House



June 30, 1991  
2:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Program

Welcome:  
Kathy Svec  
President, Ames Heritage Association

Introduction of Guests/Acknowledgments:  
Sharon Wirth  
Restoration Coordinator  
Ames Heritage Association Board

Address:  
Darrell D. Henning  
Consultant, Curator  
The Vesterheim, Norwegian/American Museum  
Decorah, Iowa

Unveiling of Quilt:  
Neta Snook Chapter of Questers

Refreshments provided by Ames Questers  
*See map on back for directions to site.*



## Getting Started



*The Bauge House is on the move from Huxley to McFarland Park.*

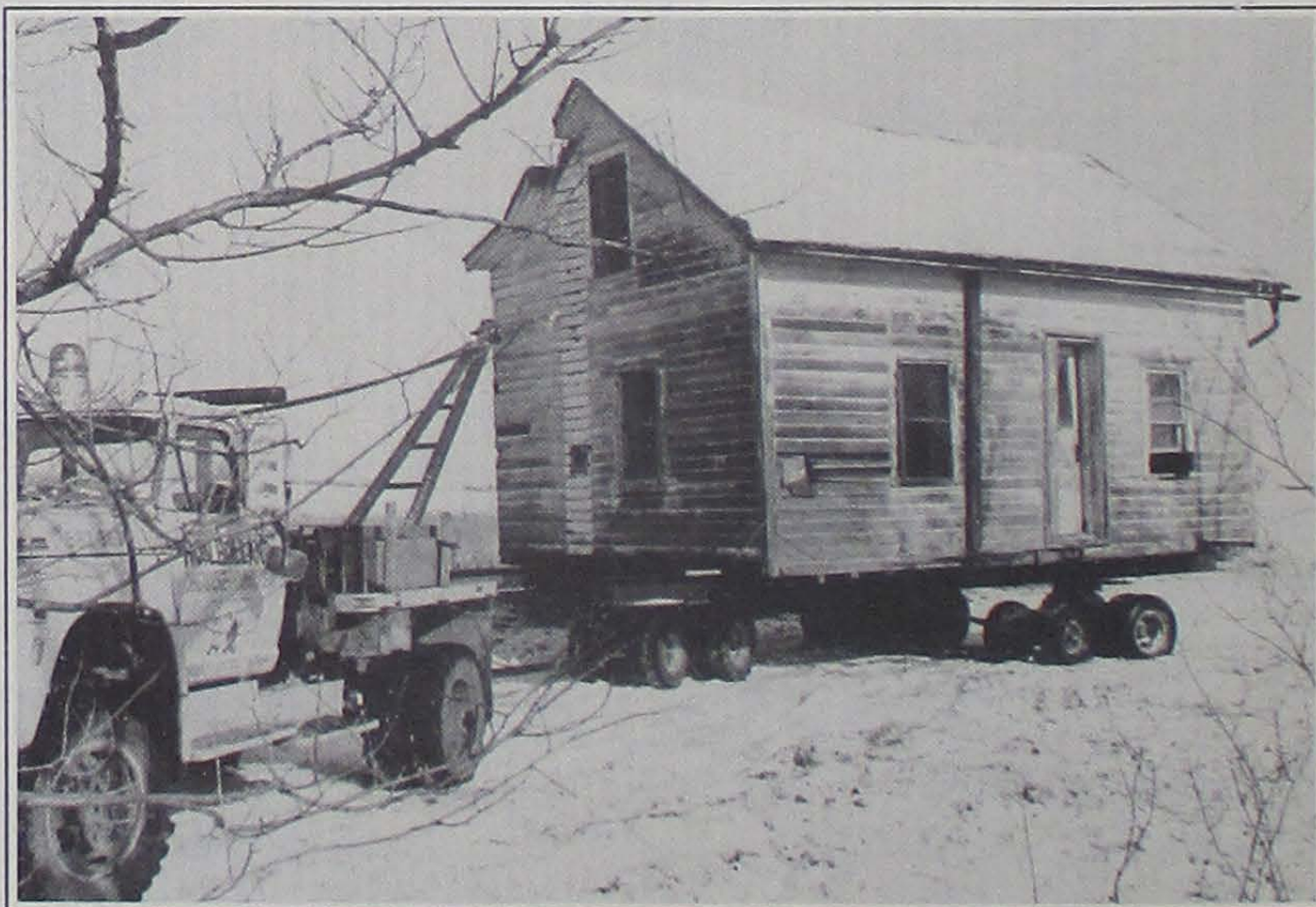
In December of 1988, the log house was moved from its original site (to prevent demolition) to the Story County Conservation Board's McFarland Park, north of Ames. Nestled among the trees with an open prairie to the front, the new site is very similar to the original setting and will ensure its preservation and restoration for future generations to learn from and enjoy. The log structure measures 24 feet in length, 16 feet in height and 24 feet in width.

The restoration is under the direction of the Ames

Heritage Association, although the structure is owned by the Story County Conservation Board. The log house typifies those built by pioneers of Norwegian descent. The house will be used as a museum site with interpretive programming developed to give visitors historically accurate insights into rural life during 1890-1910 as illustrated by a typical Norwegian pioneer household. The significance of this structure lies in portraying the early rural life of this area.

Restoration plans have been developed by working with Darrell Henning, recognized expert on log structures and curator of the Norwegian/American Museum of Decorah, Ia. A restoration period of 1890-1910 has been chosen, in part, because excellent documentation of the structure and its furnishings is available for this date. This also marks the time when the second generation family occupied the house.

The restoration process will include the following projects: (1) retaining and repairing the exterior siding which was put on within 10-20 years of construction; this is historically correct and protects the logs from further deterioration caused by the weather; (2) reconstructing the lean-to which was added shortly after initial construction; (3) re-shingling the roof with cedar shingles; (4) returning the interior walls to their early white-washed appearance; (5) relocating the staircase to its earlier central loca-



*The house arrives at the park, ready to sit on its new fieldstone foundation.*



tion; (6) replacing windows and doors with historically accurate reproductions; (7) restoring the early heating and cooking systems; and (8) assembling information about family history, furnishings and life-style of Lars and Anna Bauge to serve as a base for developing interpretive programming.

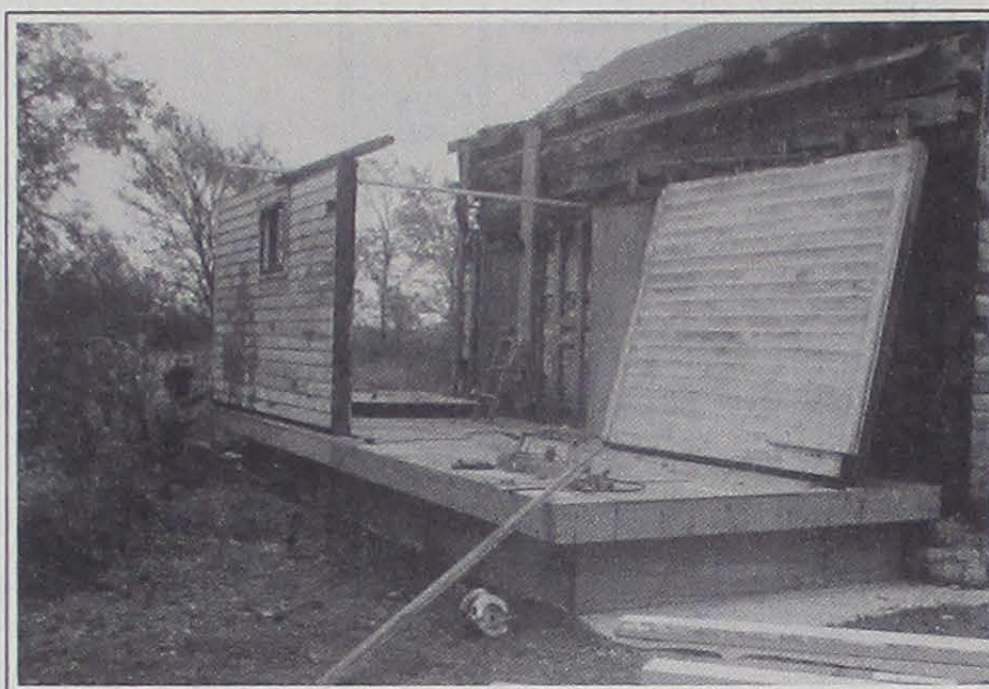
## Progress Continues . . . . .

Armed with sizeable grants from the National Questers Organization, the Ames Noon Kiwanis Club and other funds generously donated from area citizens, businesses, family members, and community groups, Phase II of the restoration began in the fall of 1990. This included several major components entailing re-construction of the lean-to area, crafting of reproduction windows for the entire structure, and reroofing with cedar shingles.

*Under the direction of Ben Svec and Dennis Dobson from the Falls Millwork Co. of Kelley, Ia. work begins. A floor deck of new material was constructed.*

*This will eventually be covered by historically appropriate materials. Reconstruction continued with repair of original salvaged walls which were reused.*

*The wall pieces were then attached to the newly constructed floor deck.*



*This photo shows the interior of the lean-to at the northeast corner. Each piece was checked for proper fit and placement as the process proceeds. Placement and fit of salvaged roof rafters was studied. Information gained from this process was used in crafting new reproduction rafters because the originals were too deteriorated to reuse.*

*The salvaged wall pieces have been re-attached to the main house and the roof rafters are in place. The lean-to now includes a new roof complete with reproduction rafters and cedar shingles. Svec and*

*Dobson have worked to save as much of the original fabric as possible. Replacement of original fabric has been resorted to only as necessary, usually to provide adequate structural and support conditions and to replace missing pieces.*







*This is a view of the main house with the lean-to attachment nearly completed. The next step involves window reproduction. Family member, Leda Bauge Barrie, writes "Many years ago we had 12 small window panes (six in each sash) in each window--very hard to wash and keep clean." Work continues in earnest to complete installation of the reproduction windows before the dedication on June 30.*

Completion of Phase II is expected by May of 1992. Four major components remain. They are (1) painting the exterior of the entire structure; (2) repair and/or reproduction of front and back doors; (3) building protective "shutter panels" to cover doors and windows; and (4) repair and finishing of interior lean-to walls. Completion of these components will greatly facilitate visits to the site and significantly enhance programming opportunities.

Programming will be developed to give visitors historically accurate insights into life in rural Story County during the period of 1890-1910 as illustrated by a typical Norwegian pioneer household. Programming plans will describe, as much as possible, the activities and experiences of the Bauge family in particular. Program coordinator, Ann Legvold Watts reports the interpretive programming will include the following themes:

- (1) "The Westward Trek" to describe the westward migration of non-native populations into Iowa and to describe Nils and Synneva Bauge's movements from Norway to Illinois to Iowa;
- (2) "Building the Norwegian Log Home" to describe the construction of a typical log home in the tradition of Norwegian settlers;
- (3) "Making a New Life" to describe the procedures to establish a home and farm in newly-opened land and to describe Lars and Anna Bauge's household and way of life;
- (4) "Living in Story County at the Turn of the Century" to describe county, state, and national events during the 1890-1910 time period to explain outside influences in Lars and Anna Bauge's life-style.

*Inside the house, the log walls can be seen in the background. Typical Norwegian accessories from the 1890-1910 time-period are displayed on the table. They include stoneware bowls, salt glazed jug, and lefse rolling pin. The checkered table cloth is made from a flour sack.*





# The Bauge Family



## Story County Pioneers

*Nils and Synneva Bauge, natives of Norway, settled on the farm northeast of Huxley in 1866. They were the first of the Bauge family to occupy the log house.*

The Bauge Family Log House was built for Nils and Synneva Bauge, natives of Norway. The Bauges came to Iowa via Illinois in the spring of 1866. Originally located northeast of Huxley on land owned by Avis and Everett Steensland, the home was donated by the Steenslands to the Ames Heritage Association and the Story County Conservation Board on the condition that the house be moved and restored. Nils and Synneva raised eight children in the house. Nils died in 1890; Synneva in 1911. Both are buried in the Palestine Cemetery north of Huxley with other family members.

In 1890 Lars, son of Nils and Synneva, married Anna Fjelland. They became the second generation Bauge family to occupy the house. The Lars and Anna Bauge family was a large one with fifteen children born to them. Thirteen of the fifteen children survived past infancy (seven boys and six girls). Because of the wide age range of the children, only about seven were living in the log home at any one time. Lars operated a sorghum mill located among the trees not far to the northwest of the log home. He farmed 80 acres, did carpentry work and processed his neighbors' sorghum into syrup.

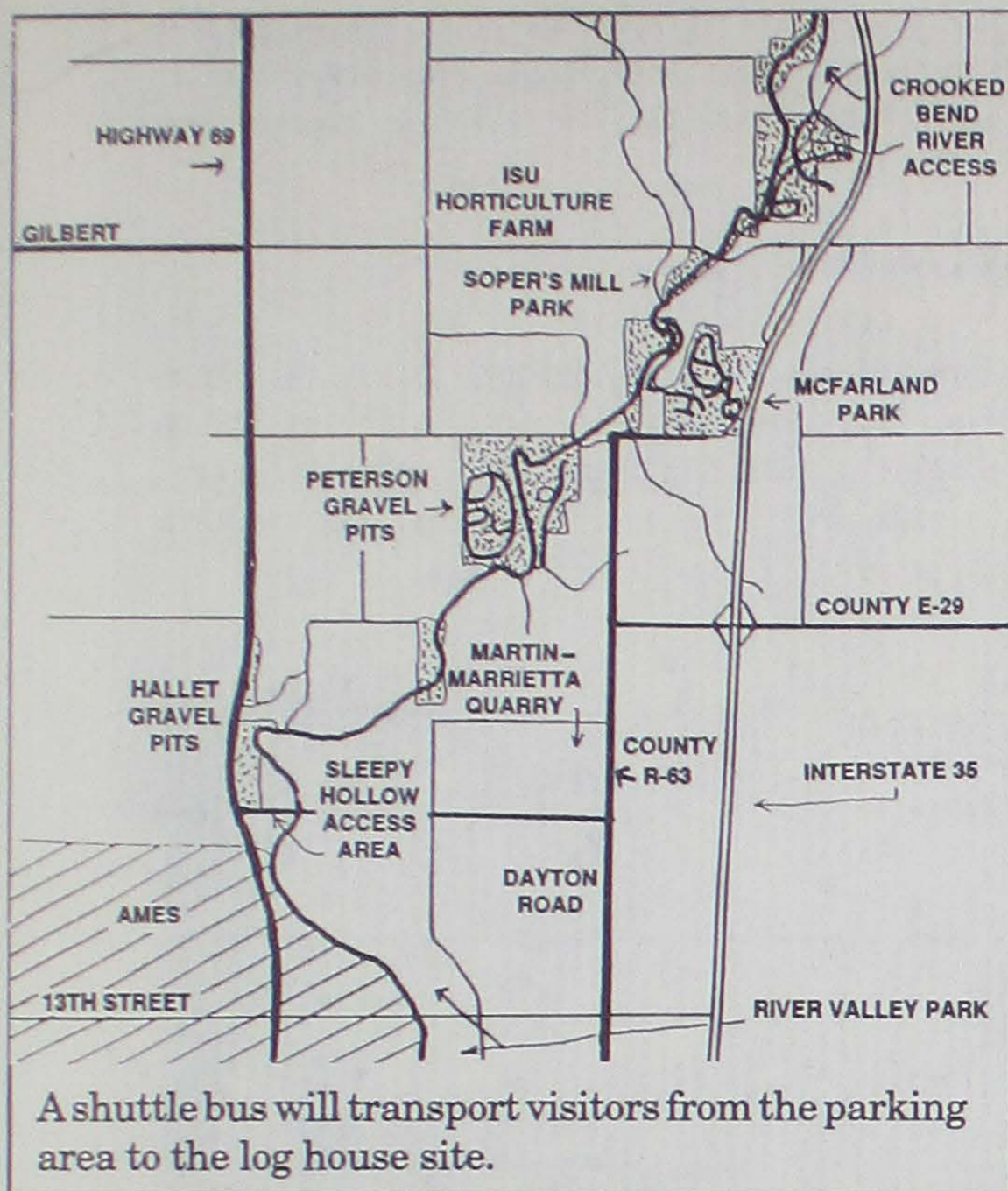
Coinciding with the time when Lars and Anna began their life together in the home, the time from 1890 to 1910 has been chosen as the restoration period. Research and documentation (including recollections from family members) will assist in re-creating the appearance and furnishings of their home. Upon arrival, visitors may be surprised to see the logs covered with lapped siding. The siding serves the very important purpose of protecting the logs from the weather. Inside, however, the logs will be exposed and returned to their original white-washed appearance. Furnishings will be appropriate for the restoration period including some original Bauge family pieces. Although completion of the restoration is not expected for some time yet, we encourage the public to visit and get a glimpse of rural life at the turn of the century.

The home is open periodically for scheduled open houses or by appointment only. To arrange a visit, please call the Story County Conservation Center, 232-2516 or Sharon Wirth, 233-2415.



*This photo shows the Lars Bauge family in 1918. (L. to Rt.) Fr. Row: Abner; Anna (Fjelland) Bauge, wife of Lars; Lars with Elden on lap; Nels, with Albert on lap; Nellie (Bauge) Fjelland; Marion. Back Row: Theodore; Rachael (Bauge) Anderson; Arthur; Leda (Bauge) Barrie; Randa (Bauge) Olson; Alma (Bauge) Severeid; Alice (Bauge) Richter.*





Text by Sharon Wirth; Photos by Cele Burnett, Bruce Kellogg and Harry Svec; Family photos courtesy of Elden and Marguerite Bauge and Leda (Bauge) Barrie.

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The Ames Heritage Association meets the third Monday of every month (September through June) at 7:00 p.m. at Willson-Beardshear School, 920 Carroll, Ames.

The annual membership meeting is held the third Monday of January. Time and place are announced in advance.

*The Ames Intelligencer* is published three times a year-winter, spring, and fall.

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